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Senate

The Senate met at 9:15 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore [Mr. STEVENS].

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. This morning the Senate will be led in prayer by a great personal friend and father of one of my staff on the Appropriations Committee. I present to the Senate Pastor James C. Hayes of the Lily of the Valley Church of God in Christ of Fairbanks, AK. He is a three-time former mayor of Fairbanks.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Oh, gracious and eternal God who rules Heaven and Earth and has been with all of us from the very beginning of time, You have never left us. As you stated in Your word, "Lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world" (Matthew 28:20). We thank You. We also thank You for America, the greatest Nation founded upon the belief "In God we trust."

God, I pray no prayer that You have not heard before. I speak no words that have never been uttered. Ezekiel 22:30 says, "And I sought for a man among them that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it; but I found none." God, as Your servant, I stand in the gap and pray an intercessory prayer of faith, hope, and love. I pray for these men and women who are elected to serve Your people in the U.S. Senate as they deliberate and make tough and sometimes unpopular decisions that affect all of us who live in the land of the free. I Timothy 2:1-2 says, "I exhort, therefore, that first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks be made for all men; for kings and for all that are in authority, that we may lead a quiet and peaceful life in all godliness and honesty." I pray that You empower each Member with Your vision and courage as they seek to continue making this Nation the greatest nation on Earth.

God, let us remember that You are the author and finisher of our faith. Let us also remember You are our Father, and You have the last word. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The PRESIDENT pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BROWNBACK). The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning the Senate will begin consideration of the jobs and economic growth package which was reported by the Finance Committee. Under the agreement reached yesterday, there are 14 hours remaining for consideration of the bill.

I again ask that all Senators who intend to offer amendments contact the chairman and ranking member of the committee to facilitate their structuring of consideration of this bill for today and tomorrow morning.

As I indicated last night in closing, I expect a very busy day today and, indeed, a busy day tomorrow and on Friday. We will have a busy day and likely a busy night tonight as we address this important jobs and economic growth package.

When we complete this measure tomorrow, we will proceed directly to the bipartisan global HIV/AIDS bill. The Senate will complete both of these important issues this week. A number of Senators do have engagements planned Saturday, a number of commencement

addresses and interaction with their constituents, so we will not be in on Saturday, but we will likely be voting late into Friday. I urge them to make appropriate arrangements but to be here Friday. We will clearly be voting through tomorrow as well.

Mr. President, I made a few statements yesterday on the fact that this HIV/AIDS bill will be addressed this week. The focus today and much of tomorrow will be on the jobs and economic growth package. I hope we can go to the HIV/AIDS bill tomorrow afternoon. This virus, HIV/AIDS, casts a shadow of death that reaches across oceans; it knows no borders, and it is sweeping across continents. It goes to remote villages and countries all across the globe. It has killed 23 million people, and 42 million people are living with this virus. Of those 42 million people, most don't know they have the virus. Another 60 million people will likely die of HIV/AIDS by 2020.

We have an opportunity to reverse this moral, this humanitarian tragedy. The work has been done by the House of Representatives, by the President of the United States, and now it is up to this body. As I have mentioned before, history will judge whether America has led in the fight against HIV/AIDS, which has caused the greatest destruction in human life in recorded history, and whether we stood up in a timely fashion and performed heroic rescues. President Bush opened the door to that possibility, the House acted, and we will act this week to pass legislation and get this program established without further delay.

RECOGNITION OF THE ACTING MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada is recognized.

Mr. REID. We have two of the most experienced managers in the Senate working on this bill, Senators GRASSLEY and BAUCUS. The rules of this tax

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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